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NEW HIGHWAY BILL IS BEING SENT TO EVERY LEGISLATOR

Would Create New Maintenance for State-Built Highways. Provides Increased Tax on Motor Vehicles. With Heavy Trucks Taxed Heavily.

A proposed new State highway bill providing for the maintenance of a state highway system, has been prepared with the approval of the State Highway Commission, and copies of it are this week being sent from Governor Cooper's office to all members of the general assembly, who will be given an opportunity of voting on it at the 1920 session of the General Assembly, which convenes in January.

The main feature of the new bill is that it proposes an increase tax on automobiles. It would provide a tax of fifty cents per horse power on automobiles, and also a heavier tax on motor trucks, increasing with the tonnage of the trucks. The bill would tax a one-ton truck \$12, and an eight-ton \$750, with the license on trucks of intermediate tonnage ranging between these two figures. The purpose of the bill, state members of the Highway Commission is to discourage the use of heavier motor trucks which are destructive on roads. It is stated that the legislature will also probably be asked to provide for a small tax levy in the counties for the maintenance of the state highway system.

The new bill, it is stated by members of the Highway Commission will provide an income for the state highway system of nearly two million dol-

lars each year. The bill would provide that seventy-five per cent of this income revert to the counties for the maintenance of the roads in the various counties forming a part of the state system. All the money, in case there is no state highway in a county, or the overplus in case the state highways in a county do not require the county's proportionate share of the money for maintenance, goes into the construction of state highways in such counties, provided the county will match the money dollar for dollar.

The new highway bill is a crystallization of the ideas of a number of road authorities. Speaker Cothran, of the House of Representatives a prominent Greenville attorney, who has studied road legislation considerably, as well as members of the Highway Commission, have aided in developing the new plan. The best ideas as to road maintenance gathered by the highway department from their work in the state have also gone into the construction of the new bill.

One member of the Highway Commission, in speaking of the plan for



taxing motor trucks heavily, stated that the fathers of the bill took the position that one eight-ton motor truck did more harm to roads than two four-ton trucks, and the idea back of the bill is to encourage the use of lighter vehicles. The idea of sending copies of the bill to the members of the General Assembly is that they may have plenty of time prior to the meeting of the legislature to digest the contents of the new highway plan.

THE HIGH COST OF LOAFING

It is the high cost of loafing rather than the high cost of living that troubles America today, in the opinion expressed in a recent issue of the "Corn Exchange," the monthly magazine of the Corn Exchange National Board of Philadelphia. The paper says that the country is producing less per hour, per man, than before war although the rate of consumption is greater. This being true, prices continue to advance and further advances may be expected until an economic balance is effected between production and consumption.

The solution of the problem as indicated by President Wilson, Governor Harding, of the Federal Reserve Reserve Board, and others, is to increase production and reduce expenditures.

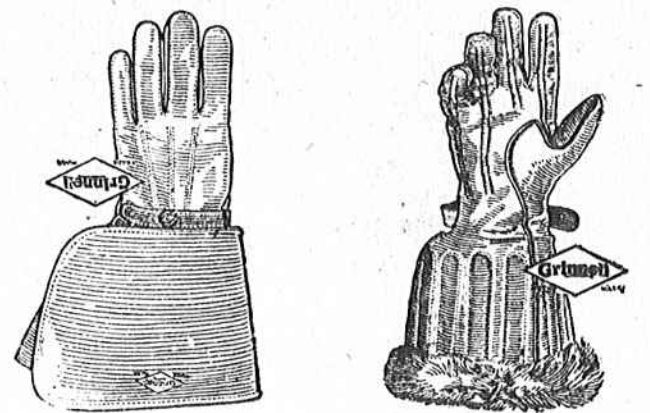
Investigation by a large manufacturing plant of Philadelphia, says "Corn Exchange," recently showed that under identical circumstances the production per man per hour was one half before the war although wages have been doubled. Another investigation which covered several states and which was reported in the same paper showed that while the average wage per man increased 240 per cent the production per man, per hour, had decreased 62 per cent.

"The man who loafs on the job," says the paper above named, "no matter what division of society he belongs to deliberately elects to surrender his claim to be an honest man, for he is pretending to do something that he knows he is not doing. This lowering of the moral standard of the people of the nation * * * menaces the stability of the state."

The paper concludes: "Let us be honest with ourselves by recognizing the high duty of working at maximum speed at whatever task circumstances bring to us. The loafer is father of the liar, and the liar is father of the traitor to all that we hold dear in America. It is the worker who has always won, the shirker who has always lost. Let us stop talking about the high cost of living. Let us put a stop to the high cost of loafing."

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TODD PLEADS FOR MORE COTTON; WANNAMAKER FOR BETTER PRICE

Oxford Man Says Acreage Reduction Would Be Calamity, While Carolinian Declares Fair Price Is Absolutely Essential.

New Orleans, Oct. 13.—Declaration by John A. Todd, professor of economics and Oxford lecturer, that further restrictions of cotton acreage in the United States would be "nothing short of a calamity," and a demand that cotton consumers pay "enough to make cotton as profitable as other crops," by J. Skottowe Wannamaker, of St. Matthews, S. C., president of the American Cotton Association featured the second general session here late today of delegates to the world cotton conference.

Mr. Todd's declaration was made in the course of an address in which the presented figures showing future needs of the world for cotton, past crops and the present prospects.

"The world's requirements," said Mr. Todd, "are practically unlimited. Europe and Asia are bare of cotton goods. The position today is the same as before the war, only worse. The world wants more cotton than it is getting and must have it. The more financially embarrassed the people of the world are the more cotton they will use. In America an increased

acreage is improbable; the boll weevil and scarcity of labor are serious handicaps. The only solution here is an increased yield per acre. The average cotton yield in the South, to say the least, is discreditable; more cotton is wasted annually in America than it has been possible to raise in Africa outside of Egypt.

Would Be Calamity.

"Further restriction of cotton acreage in America would be nothing short of a calamity. There now is and always will be a demand for all the cotton that can be raised anywhere. There is no need to restrict the supply, but rather it should be increased.

"Of course, the first necessity is to assure the planter a reasonably remunerative price. Despite the great increase in the cost of cotton today, it is still one of the cheapest products and has not increased proportion to other commodities."

Mr. Wannamaker prefaced his address with the declaration that cotton has been a curse to the Southern States. "If it had not been for the raising of cotton in the South this section would have been thickly settled with whites and there would not be the great percentage of illiterates in the rural communities. Cotton brought slavery, resulting in the War Between the States, followed by the terrible days of reconstruction, bankruptcy and poverty. Cotton has enriched every land where it has been used commercially, it has blessed mankind everywhere the sun shines but in the South it has been a curse. Cotton is why there are white women and little children working in the fields.

Todd Appeals.

"There won't be increased acreage of cotton until a price is paid for the product which will justify its being raised by well-paid man labor. It must be a price which will bring our Southern negroes back to the cotton fields. The price must enable the "one-horse" farmer to make more than a bare living. The men returning from the war white and black, do not have any intention of going to the cotton fields again; they know better.

"But if this conference adjourns without taking steps to increase the yield per acre it is dodging the issue. There will not be any increased acreage, but there must be an increased yield and the price must take care of the gambler's chance the grower has to take."

Some Embarrassment.

A situation which threatened to result in an embarrassing climax de-

veloped shortly after Mr. Wannamaker concluded his address. J. A. Simpson, Weatherford, Oklahoma, president of the Oklahoma Farmers' Union offered a motion to the effect that the statements of Mr. Wannamaker be given to the press as the sentiments of the growers' division. W. B. Thompson, who presided at the session stated that under the rules governing procedure at the meeting it would not be possible to take a vote on the motion, as all classes were represented at the session.

Mr. Simpson said the motion was the unanimous view of the growers and he wanted action taken on it. The chairman again refused under the rules to present the motion. Mr. Simpson then addressed the conference, saying: "I appeal to the entire conference for permission to present the motion of the growers to whom you all look for a living. Turn it down if you want to."

A motion for the resumption of the regular order of business put an end to the arguments after Mr. Thompson expressed his regret that lines had apparently been drawn on the first day of the conference.

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